

Health Equity Task Force

February 8, 2021 Public Hearing

Welcome

This is the third public hearing of the legislative task force established by Chapter 93 of the Acts of 2020 (referred to as the “Health Equity Task Force”) to study and make recommendations to the General Court that address health disparities for underserved or underrepresented populations based on culture, race, ethnicity, language, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, geographic location, including, but not limited to, gateway cities with hospitals dedicated to caring for patients who test positive for COVID-19, and age in the commonwealth during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions of Task Force Members
2. Announcement re: Future Task Force Meetings
3. Public Testimony

1. Introduction of Task Force Members

Senate Appointees

Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz

Senator Julian Cyr

Task Force Co-Chair, Michael Curry, Esq., Deputy CEO and General Counsel at Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

Dr. Milagros Abreu, Executive Director, President and Founder of The Latino Health Insurance Program

Dr. Cassandra Pierre, infectious diseases physician and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Boston University

Dr. Frank Robinson, Vice President, Public Health and Community Relations, Baystate Health

Hirak Shah, Legal Counsel for Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr

House Appointees

Representative Carlos González

Representative Liz Miranda

Task Force Co-Chair, Dr. Assaad Sayah, CEO, Cambridge Health Alliance; Commissioner of Public Health, City of Cambridge; Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Kiame Mahaniah, CEO, Lynn Community Health Center

Dr. Myechia Minter-Jordan, President & CEO, DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement and Catalyst Institute

Jeffrey Sanchez, Lecturer, Center for Public Health Leadership, TH Chan School of Public Health; Senior Advisor, Rasky Partners

Beverly Stables, Health Care Policy Analyst for House Minority Leader Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

Chair of the MA Black and Latino Legislative Caucus

Representative Chynah Tyler

Chair of the MA Asian-American Legislative Caucus

Representative Donald H. Wong

Next Health Equity Task Force Meetings

February 16 (3:30 - 5 PM) Virtual Meeting

Description: This meeting of the Health Equity Task Force will focus on draft recommendations for the Final Report.

February 23 (3 - 4:30 PM) Virtual Meeting

Description: This meeting of the Health Equity Task Force will focus on draft recommendations for the Final Report.

Testimony & Ground Rules

Oral Testimony Today

- We are pleased of the high level of interest in testimony: **16 panels of 50 people.**
- It is important to us that everyone's testimony is heard.
- Task Force Members should have your cameras on throughout the hearing.
- The Co-Chairs will recognize each panel sequentially to turn on your video and audio to testify. To transition to the next panel, the panel listing will briefly be shown on screen.
- **Then, each person will have up to 3 minutes for oral testimony. Please summarize your testimony and try not to repeat points made by others.**
- **A staff person will be visible on the screen (with a sign) to signal when 30 seconds remain and again as time has elapsed. Please be sure to wrap up your remarks then.**
- Once the panel's testimony is concluded, the panel will be excused.
- Please mute your line and turn off your video after your testimony.
- The Co-Chairs will then recognize the next panel.

Written testimony is also encouraged. Please email in PDF format to:

mmccallister@massleague.org and dfox@challiance.org

Panel 1 Testimony: Elected Officials

- **Rep. Christina Minicucci**, 14th Essex District
- **Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven**, 27th Middlesex District

Panel 2 Testimony: Work and Family Mobility

- **Rep. Christine Barber**, State Rep. 34th Middlesex
- **Dalida Rocher**, Political Director, SEIU 32BJ
- **Dr. Julia Koehler, MD**, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School
- **Monique Ching**, Policy Analyst, Mass Budget and Policy Center

Panel 3 Testimony: Health Care & Community Perspectives on COVID-19 and Health Equity

- **Dr. Rohini Rau-Murthy, MD**, Family Medicine Resident Physician, Codman Square Health Center and Boston Medical Center
- **Dr. Lara Jirmanus, MD, MPH**, Primary Care Physician, Cambridge Health Alliance and Fellow, FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard School of Public Health
- **Noemi Uribe**, Policy and Project Coordinator, Health Care for All

Panel 4 Testimony: Perspectives on the Long-Term Effects of COVID-19 from Centro Cristiano Betesda in Worcester

- **Introduction by Dr. Milagros Abreu, MD, MPH, Executive Director, Latino Health Insurance Program**
- **Pastor Mauricio Ramirez, Pastor of Centro Cristiano Betesda in Worcester**
- **Rubiela Soto**

Panel 5 Testimony: Perspectives from the Lawrence Community and the Greater Lawrence Community Health Center

- **Dr. Corinne Gibbons, MD**, Family Medicine Resident, Greater Lawrence Family Health Center
- **Dr. Miguel Joaquin, MD**, Family Medicine Resident, Greater Lawrence Family Health Center
- **Dr. Ryan Dono, MD**, Family Physician, Core Faculty and Medical Director of the Health Care for the Homeless Program, Greater Lawrence Family Health Center

Panel 6 Testimony: Behavioral Health Equity and Early Intervention

- **David Matteodo**, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of Behavioral Health Systems
- **Rachael Cracknell**, Co-President, Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium and Program Director of North Suffolk Harbor Area Early Intervention

Panel 7 Testimony: Older Adults and Senior Care

- **Tara Gregorio**, President, Massachusetts Senior Care Association
- **Dr. Larissa J. Lucas, MD, FACP, CMD, HMDC**, Medical Director, Extended Care, North Shore Physicians Group
- **Lucinda Nolet**, Resident Service Coordinator, AHEPA Senior Housing

Panel 8 Testimony: Special Populations and COVID-Related Equity Concerns

- **Taciana Saab**, Dorchester Program Manager, Boston Center for Independent Living
- **Sharon King**, Community Outreach & Advocacy Specialist, Boston Center for Independent Living
- **Sally Greenhouse**
- **Matthew Stewart**
- **Rhoda Gibson**, Co-Founder, MassADAPT

Panel 9 Testimony: Mitigating COVID-19 Risk for Persons who are Incarcerated

- **Elizabeth Matos**, Executive Director, Prisoners' Legal Services

Panel 10 Testimony: Immigrant Detention Centers and COVID-19

- **Nishant Uppal**, Evaluator, Harvard Student Human Rights Collaborative Asylum Clinic and Medical Student at Harvard Medical School
- **Caroline Lee**, Evaluator, Harvard Student Human Rights Collaborative Asylum Clinic and Medical Student at Harvard Medical School
- **Parsa Efrani**, Evaluator, Harvard Student Human Rights Collaborative Asylum Clinic and Medical Student at Harvard Medical School
- **Raquel Sofia Sandoval**, Evaluator, Harvard Student Human Rights Collaborative Asylum Clinic and Medical Student at Harvard Medical School

Panel 11 Testimony: Connection Between Health Disparities and Economic Well-Being

- **Irene Hale**, President and CEO Greater, Haverhill Chamber of Commerce
- **Luz Arevalo, Esq.**, Tax Clinic Director, Greater Boston Legal Services
- **Joe Diamond**, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASSCAP)

Panel 12 Testimony: Fighting Through the Obstacles - Testing and Vaccines

- **Dianne Wilkerson**, Black Boston COVID-19 Coalition Steering Committee and Project Manager- BBCC Boston Resiliency Fund project
- **Priscilla Flint Banks**, Convenor, Black Boston COVID-19 Coalition Steering Committee and Founder Black Economic Justice institute
- **Louis Elisa**, Black Boston COVID-19 Coalition Steering Committee and Member, Mayor's Health Inequity Task Force

Panel 13 Testimony: Community Perspectives on COVID-19

- **Emily Menjivar**, Youth Leader, La Colaborativa
- **Iliana Vidal**, Youth Leader, La Colaborativa
- **Aya Faiz**, Youth Leader, La Colaborativa
- **Norieliz de Jesus**, Director of Policy and Organizing, La Colaborativa
- **Priyanka Randagass or Jonathan Gomez**, Health Equity Corps, GreenRoots Chelsea

Panel 14 Testimony: Several Equity Topics

Language Access, including for Refugee Populations

- **Ailish Donovan**, Senior Program Manager, Ascentria Care Alliance (formerly Lutheran Social Services)

Internet and Broadband Across Massachusetts

- **Timothy O. Wilkerson**, President, New England Cable & Telecommunications Association, Inc.

Equity-Oriented Approaches to Assessment and Evaluation

- **Laura McNulty**, Community & Population Health Epidemiologist and Analyst, Cambridge Health Alliance

Panel 15 Testimony: Lead Poisoning and Equity

- **Laura Maslow-Armand**, Director, Health Disparities Project, Lawyers for Civil Rights
- **Neil Leifer**, Attorney for Children's Mental Health, Neil Leifer, LLC
- **Rick Rabin**, Trainer and Technical Consultant, MA Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH)

Panel 16 Testimony: Perspectives from the Vietnamese American Community

- **Lisette Le**, Executive Director, VietAID
- **Annie Le**, President of Nova Boston

Any Additional Oral Testimony

Thank You for Your Testimony!

Please Submit Written Testimony to:

Donna Fox (dfox@challiance.org) and Morgan McCallister (mmccallister@massleague.org) with the subject line: "Health Equity Hearing Written Testimony."